



# The Harbinger

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Newsletter of the

Illinois Native Plant Society

*"... dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of native plants and vegetation in Illinois."*



Photo by Keith Nowakowski

Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)

The 2016 Annual Gathering is coming up on June 3-5 at Touch of Nature in Carbondale and this year the Southern chapter is creating a separate packet with all the registration details which will be available soon. In the meantime please enjoy this month's newsletter, packed with a variety of articles by several INPS members.

*Victor M. Cassidy, Editor*

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## **Message from the President**

Spring has come early this year and our earliest spring wildflowers are blooming across the state. Snow trillium and skunk cabbage have flowered and I just heard pasque flower is blooming. In southern Illinois where I live, wildflowers are coming into peak bloom. I have been fortunate to see many of my favorite plants already this year.

Speaking of observing plants, we recently launched a bragging rights competition to see who can observe the most species of native Illinois plants in 2016. See more details on page 13.

I would like to welcome our two new board members, Keri Shimp and Amanda Pankau. We had a nice and productive board member retreat last January at Allerton Park where we were able to get to know one another and plan out the next year. You can see pictures from the retreat at this link, [Allerton Park](#).

The Southern chapter board is about to hold our 4<sup>th</sup> Indigenous Plants Symposium and many excellent presenters will be speaking, including some members from the Northeast chapter. This symposium includes our native plant sale with Green Earth. A few other INPS chapters are having native plant sales this year as well and a link to native plant sales in Illinois is on page 13.

Please note that the next Annual Gathering will be hosted by the Southern chapter at Touch of Nature Environmental Center, a splendid site in a rustic setting on Little Grassy Lake, on June 3-5<sup>th</sup>. Please save the date and a registration packet will be available soon.

For the Annual Gathering, the Southern chapter is having a photo contest. Twelve winning photos representing natural communities or natural areas in southern Illinois will be selected for use on a poster of southern Illinois natural communities. Please send submissions to [southernillinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:southernillinoisplants@gmail.com). One other thing I want you to be aware of is the LinkedIn group we recently created. This is a way for our members to learn about and seek out other members in the society and get to know them professionally. Please search for the group on LinkedIn and request to join. Enjoy the wildflowers!

~ Christopher David Benda



# INPS CHAPTER NEWS

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## KANKAKEE TORRENT CHAPTER (Kankakee)

On their Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/LanghamIsland>), the Friends of Langham Island provide a rough map outline of where brush removal stood in February. The map outlines the total work area in green, while red represents what was cleared on the February 20 workday. Invasive brush remains the greatest threat to native plants on the island, but the group is doing more than just clearing it. Workdays continue—visit the Facebook page for news. Kankakee Torrent chapter and the Kankakee River Valley Beekeepers Association (KRVBA) invite participation in a **beekeepers mentoring program** that meets at 12:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month (Apr. 3, May 1, Jun 5, July 3, Aug 7, Sept 4, Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4) at Plum Creek Nature Center in the Goodenow Grove Forest Preserve of Will County (east of Route 394 between Beecher and Crete). The meetings are a convenient place to gather and exchange ideas in an open forum. The KRVBA also gives **beekeeping classes** during the winter months (see [Http://krvba.blogspot.com/](http://krvba.blogspot.com/)).

## CENTRAL CHAPTER (Springfield)

The Central Chapter is especially proud of its member Henry “Weeds” Eilers who writes a blog called “Plant Profiles” for the chapter website ([www.ill-inps.org/index.php/henry-blog](http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/henry-blog)). Subjects include sedges, milkweeds, winter botany, and local diversity.

One blog that caught HARBINGER’s eye was “This ‘n That about Trees and Weeds,” an account of pre-conference and post-conference field trips in conjunction with the 8<sup>th</sup> triennial meeting of the International Oak Society last fall. According to Eilers, the group visited “some of the northernmost subtropical Cypress swamps to some of the southernmost boreal bogs,” encountering great bird, bee, and weed diversity, but (alas) not a single snake, venomous or benign. Among many other places, the group visited an out-of-the-way country road south of Anna to see a Southern Red Oak (*Quercus shumardii*) that is the largest of its kind in the world. According to Eilers, everyone clambered up the steep bank around this tree, hugged it, and had their picture taken.

## SOUTHERN CHAPTER (Carbondale)

The Southern Chapter has a full lineup of programming planned for 2016! In April we welcome Dr. Kurt Neubig to speak about *Dichanthelium* species (panic grasses) with a couple of his students. Graduate student Travis Neal will also speak about his research with Japanese chaff flower. Vice-president Chris Evans will instruct his popular wildflower photography workshop on two weekends in April and May. Then in June we host the Annual Gathering and we hope to see everyone there!

# TAXONOMISTS: WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THEM?

By Paul B. Marcum, Assistant Project Leader for Botany  
Wetland Science Program, Illinois Natural History Survey



Carl Linnaeus

It is innate in all of us to arrange, organize, and even classify things we see, but taxonomists take this to a whole other level. Just when we think we have a handle on scientific classification and plant names they change again. Aarrgh!

Theophrastus (c. 371 – c. 287 BC), a student of Plato and Aristotle, was the first to write down his thoughts on plant classification. They were somewhat limited, because he grouped plants by growth form, locality, and their practical uses. By the time of Linnaeus (1707 – 1778), we had amassed an amazing amount of knowledge about the natural world. This was translated into his groundbreaking binomial system of nomenclature that is still used today. However, it wasn't until Charles Darwin's great contribution to evolutionary theory (1859) that taxonomy had its current underpinning framework: i.e., that all species of life have descended over time from common ancestors (monophyletic).

For most of the last two centuries, morphological characters were used almost exclusively to classify plants. Since the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, analysis of plant genetic material has been possible. Knowledge of DNA, along with new methods to mathematically calculate phylogeny, have led to fast-paced changes in plant taxonomy.

Plant groups that were thought to be monophyletic based on morphology are being found to be paraphyletic (groups that lack some of the descendants of the most recent common ancestor) or even polyphyletic (groups which do not include the most recent common ancestor). Often in these cases, single taxonomic units (e.g. genera or family) of plants must be split or subdivided into multiple equivalent taxonomic units (e.g. *Aster* was split into seven genera and the Liliaceae family was split into 13 families that occur in Illinois).

Alternatively, taxonomic units may also be lumped to create monophyletic groups. It's important to remember that these sometimes frustrating changes represent an increase in our knowledge and a better overall understanding of how plant groups are related. We are, right now, in a time of great advancement in plant taxonomy.

Since 1975, Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock, retired professor from Southern Illinois University and founder of the Illinois Native Plant Society (then the Southern Illinois Native Plant Society), has been the guardian or overseer of Illinois' plant composition and classification. In an upcoming article, to be published in the INPS journal *Erigenia*, Dr. Mohlenbrock lists the many necessary changes that are represented in our most recent state-wide flora, *Vascular Flora of Illinois: a field guide* (2014). Table 1 provides a summary of some of the major nomenclatural changes we have seen in Illinois.

Table 1. Major Illinois flora nomenclatural changes at the genus and family level.

<u>Old Name</u>	<u>New Name(s)</u>
<i>Arabis</i>	<i>Arabidopsis, Arabis, Boechera, Turritis</i>
<i>Aronia</i>	<i>Photinia</i>
<i>Aster</i>	<i>Aster, Brachyactis, Doellingeria, Eurybea, Ionactis, Oligoneuron, Symphyotrichum</i>
<i>Lycopodium</i>	<i>Dendrolycopodium, Diphasiastrum, Hupurzia, Lycopodiella, Lycopodium</i>
<i>Botrychium</i>	<i>Botrychium, Botrypus, Sceptridium</i>
<i>Calamintha</i>	<i>Clinopodium</i>
<i>Chenopodium</i>	<i>Chenopodium, Dysphania</i>
<i>Eupatorium</i>	<i>Ageratina, Conoclinium, Eupatorium, Eutrochium, Fleischmannia</i>
<i>Lesquerella</i>	<i>Physaria</i>
<i>Lysimachia</i>	<i>Lysimachia, Naumbergia, Steironema</i>
<i>Panicum</i>	<i>Coleataenia, Dichanthelium, Hopia, Panicum</i>
<i>Potentilla</i>	<i>Argentina, Comarum, Dasiphora, Drymocallis, Sibbaldiopsis</i>
<i>Prenanthes</i>	<i>Nabalus</i>
<i>Saxifraga</i>	<i>Micranthes</i>
<i>Sedum</i>	<i>Hylotelephium, Phedinus, Sedum</i>
<i>Senecio</i>	<i>Packera</i>
<i>Solidago</i>	<i>Euthamia, Oligoneuron, Solidago</i>
<i>Talinum</i>	<i>Phemeranthus</i>
<i>Vaccinium</i>	<i>Oxycoccus, Vaccinium</i>
<i>Verbesina</i>	<i>Actinomeris, Verbesina, Ximenesia</i>
<b>Capparaceae</b>	<b>Cleomaceae</b>
<b>Escalloniaceae</b>	<b>Iteaceae</b>
<b>Liliaceae</b>	<b>Alliaceae</b> ( <i>Allium, Nothoscordum</i> ), <b>Amaryllidaceae</b> ( <i>Hymenocallis, Leucojum, Narcissus</i> ), <b>Asparagaceae</b> ( <i>Asparagus</i> ), <b>Colchicaceae</b> ( <i>Uvularia</i> ), <b>Hemerocallaceae</b> ( <i>Hemerocallis</i> ), <b>Hyacinthaceae</b> ( <i>Camassia, Chionodoxa, Muscari, Ornithogalum, Scilla</i> ), <b>Hypoxidaceae</b> ( <i>Hypoxis</i> ), <b>Liliaceae</b> ( <i>Clintonia, Erythronium, Hosta, Lilium, Tulipa</i> ), <b>Melanthiaceae</b> ( <i>Chamalirium, Melanthium, Stenanthium, Veratrum</i> ), <b>Nartheciaceae</b> ( <i>Aletris, Liriope</i> ), <b>Ruscaceae</b> ( <i>Convallaria, Maianthemum, Polygonatum, Smilacina</i> ), <b>Tofieldiaceae</b> ( <i>Triantha</i> ), <b>Trilliaceae</b> ( <i>Medeola, Trillium</i> )
<b>Saxifragaceae</b>	<b>Penthoraceae, Saxifragaceae</b>
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>	<b>Paulowniaceae, Scrophulariaceae*</b>

\* Note: others have further broken up the **Scrophulariaceae** into **Orobanchaceae** and **Plantaginaceae**

### **Wanted: An Editor for Erigenia**

The INPS is seeking an editor for **Erigenia**, which is the technical sister publication of THE HARBINGER. Here is the job description.

The editor of *Erigenia* shall be the lead person in the peer review process for producing a minimum of one issue per year. With the assistance of the editorial board the editor will conduct outreach for article submission. The editor shall collect submitted articles, send them to reviewers, and collect revisions. The editor is responsible for copy editing the text to comply with formatting as required by the journal. The editor coordinates with Allen Press for publishing and mailing.

*Erigenia* editorial board serves to assist the editor of *Erigenia* in any matters the editor may require including outreach, adjudication of conflicting reviews, membership and mailing lists. The editorial board may include any member of the INPS.



# “AUTOCHTHONOUS” IS BETTER THAN “NATIVE”

By Dennis W. Nyberg, Prof. Emeritus

Department of Biological Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago



Plant genes see the environment on a very local scale. After all, an individual plant's entire life happens very close to where it germinates. The temporal constancy of its neighbors makes the community of a plant very local. Wind and animals bring pollen from other places and move the fertilized offspring (seeds), but usually not very far. While animals and wind create a larger neighborhood of genes, the distances are mostly less than one kilometer. Favorable and neutral mutations in plant species spread slowly from their origins, creating local geographic structure.

Human economic activity has dramatically accelerated the movement of seeds. When people move to new places, they bring familiar plants and animals with them. The horticultural industry with its descriptions and propagated species has encouraged the introduction of species to new areas for aesthetic and economic reasons.

Species have colonized new areas and become locally extinct by natural means for eons, but the introduction of species to new places by people has sometimes succeeded ferociously. That drama has introduced the words "exotic" and "invasive" to our ecological vocabulary.

Because most exotic to North America species were deliberately brought from Eurasia, the earliest distinctions of origins used countries or continents. Yet clearly there are species such as Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) that are native to some states and not native to others where they now grow. Swink and Wilhelm (1994) categorize plants as native or not to 22 counties in the Chicago region, but in the University of Illinois at Chicago's Woodworth Prairie in Cook County there are species called native by Swink and Wilhelm that are definitely not indigenous to that prairie. Areas as large as states or counties are appropriate for animals that move around a lot, but pollen and seeds rarely move the distance a butterfly can travel in an hour. A new word is needed to describe the place where a plant's genes have interacted with its own and other species for hundreds of years.

## Native or Intrinsic to a Place

Derived from the Greek, the word "autochthonous" means native or intrinsic to a place. Autochthonous perfectly describes the nativity of a plant species in a preserve or conservation patch. Some of those places may be as small as an acre, and others may be thousands of acres, but none is as large as a county.

Distinguishing autochthonous, native but not autochthonous, and exotic species involves some issues. In Woodworth Prairie, I evaluated all detected species. The prairie is fairly small, only 5.1 acres, and has plant inventories going back to Paintin (1929).

The prairie is now entirely surrounded by a mixture of highways, residences, and commercial buildings. Fourteen exotic species have been continuously present since 1929, and are considered naturalized. Seventy-six prairie species have been continuously present since at least 1929, and those are all considered autochthonous. People move native species as well as exotic ones, so species that are native to the Chicago region are not necessarily autochthonous to Woodworth Prairie.

Native species excluded from the autochthonous category include Silver Maple (*Acer saccharinum*) that is common in the surrounding residential matrix; Peppergrass (*Lepidium virginicum*) that is found only near edges of construction; and Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana* var. *crebra*) that is rare in other prairie remnants. Also excluded are those species that are known or strongly suspected to have been introduced by people such as Cream Gentian (*Gentiana flavida*). Finally, easily visible native species that were not on any pre-1979 species list were excluded, e.g., Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), while rare, recent additions to the species list found in high quality communities like

White Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*) were considered autochthonous from the seed bank. Altogether I evaluated 153 species as autochthonous to Woodworth Prairie and 56 native species to have been brought by humans.

At large preserves lacking earlier species lists and surrounded by conservation land it is difficult to exclude native species from the autochthonous group. At Cranberry Slough Nature Preserve, the only native species that I am confident are NOT autochthonous are afforested tree species that are not found in natural woods in this township, e.g., Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), and Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*). A species that is popular in landscaping and found only within one 1875 ownership parcel, but is found in natural woods within the township, Eastern Redbud (*Cercis Canadensis*), is questionably autochthonous. For herbaceous species being found only along trails, the possibility of being non-autochthonous is suggested as many exotic species are limited to the trail margins. The default for a large preserve with diverse habitats is that native herbaceous species are autochthonous.

Autochthonous focuses the concept of nativity and continuity of interacting genes in individual places/preserves. The focus on the plant and animal community of a place is intrinsic to the concept of a natural area and incorporated into conservation programs such as Plants of Concern.

As an example, the conservation focus for the Kankakee Mallow (*Ilamna remota*) is on Langham Island, even though the species grows in many gardens. Using the label autochthonous rather than native should focus resources on the revitalization of communities of autochthonous plants within preserves.

Fire and mechanical removal of exotic species have resulted in substantial recovery of autochthonous communities of plants and animals. The revitalization of natural communities is the most important work humans can do to conserve nature, because revitalization preserves the natural evolutionary trajectory of the community. Determining which species are autochthonous to a site should contribute to more resources flowing into natural areas and subsequent flourishing of many mostly intact native communities all over the state.

#### LITERATURE CITED

Paintin, R. D. 1929. The morphology and nature of a prairie in Cook County. Transactions of the Illinois Academy of Science 21: 152-175.

Swink, F. and Wilhelm, G. 1994. Plants of the Chicago Region, 4th Edition. Indiana Academy of Science, Indianapolis.

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#### Did You Know? By Chris Benda

A wonderfully beautiful shrub in full glorious bloom right now is serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*). The puffy white blooms are plentiful and this shrub grows in dry woods and rocky barrens throughout Illinois.

It is called serviceberry because early settlers could not bury their loved ones that died during the winter because of the frozen ground so the bodies would be placed in caskets and set aside until the ground thawed and they could be buried. The pastors knew when the winter was over when this plant was in flower and then they would go around the countryside and perform the services for the deceased. This plant is also called shadbush.

Shad are a type of fish and they move upstream to spawn in the early spring. Indigenous people knew when to hunt for shad based on when this shrub was in flower. A 3rd common name is Juneberry and this is because this shrub produces edible red berries in June. They are a favorite food for both people and wildlife. This native shrub is a terrific alternative to the invasive Bradford Pear.



# THE NATURAL GARDEN

By Keith Nowakowski, INPS Kankakee Torrent Chapter

Recently, I was asked if there is a list of native plants that are hardy, not invasive, and need little maintenance, that a gardener can reference when trying to decide what plants would work well around their residence.

This question led me to write the book **Native Plants in the Home Landscape, for the Upper Midwest** (2004). Since that time I have continued to observe plants in the wild and experiment with how well some would work in the designed landscape, both as a professional landscape architect and a homeowner. Some of my observations follow.

All gardens look their best with proper maintenance, and native plant gardens are no exception. A perennial garden, whether it consists of native plants or Asian selections, requires a fair amount of care if it is to perform as intended. To help keep maintenance manageable, a simple plant palette is critical. There are hundreds of commercially available full sun prairie plants to choose from, and too often, it seems, folks want to grow all of them in a one hundred square foot plot of soil. This results in crowded, unsightly looking plants and bewildered gardeners.

Instead, a garden with a few, well-chosen plants, with thought to flowering times, height and spread of individual plants, as well as their soil moisture and sunlight requirements, has greater visual impact. Plants that are given room to show off their full potential are healthier, look their best, and require less hands-on attention by the gardener.



Smooth Hydrangea  
(*Hydrangea arborescens*)



Serviceberry Fall Color (*Amelanchier x grandiflora* 'Autumn Brilliance')



Tufted Hair Grass  
(*Deschampsia cespitosa*)

Do not space your plants two feet apart so they never touch one another. That is just asking for rampant weed growth and random seedling volunteers from the wildflowers and grasses. Nature always wants to fill a void. Instead, group plants that work well together. An example is Redtwig Dogwood (*Cornus alba* 'Sibirica'), underplanted with Waukegan Juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis* 'Waukegan') and Tufted Hair Grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*) in a sunny location, or a multi-stemmed Serviceberry (*Amelanchier x grandiflora* 'Autumn Brilliance') with Smooth Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*) and Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) in partial sun. Both of these combinations provide multiple seasons of interest as well as food for pollinators and songbirds.

Look for inspiration from plant species occurring in local nature preserves, take photos, make notes and learn all that you can about your region's unique plant communities rather than only referencing books or lists of "good, well mannered" plants when planning your garden beds.



# How To Drive Out Voles

By Robert Rothrock, INPS Member

Twelve years ago, I converted 15 of the 40 acres we own in Pomona, Illinois, to local ecotype native prairie. Now we have 500+ plant species growing there. Here's what I've learned about voles, the damage they do, and how to stop them.

Many years ago, I noticed that I could not establish viable stands of Prairie blazing star (*Liatris pycnostachya*). Stems of this beautiful forb were left dangling in the grass early in winter. Upon close examination, I noticed that the corms had been excavated and completely consumed by small rodents, which I later identified as prairie voles (*Microtus ochrogaster*).

I began short mowing or burning in November just after the killing frosts had eliminated most above-ground green plants. This destroyed the dense cover that voles need to get around and feed. Owls and coyotes preyed upon the voles that fled to places with better cover. Result: our populations of *Liatris*, *Baptisia*, and other vole delicacies took off and are now well established.

This past fall I saw little vole activity and did not mow some low risk areas of the prairie. By December, I saw vole damage and finished mowing those areas. Soon after, our small dog began digging up vole dens.



Liatris corms found in den  
of deceased prairie vole

She was working so hard at one den that I went over to investigate. At one foot deep she started kicking up clumps of *Liatris* corms and soon caught the vole. I finished excavating and ended up with 586 healthy *Liatris* corms which I cleaned off and later replanted. Just for fun, look up the price of a single *Liatris* corm in a native plant nursery catalog. The vole's food cache would cost several thousand dollars!

Those of you who dabble in Grow Native gardening, especially in or near rural areas may have noticed that many of your previous years plantings have mysteriously disappeared. Now you have a new suspect--the cute, furry, stubby tailed rodent, the vole.

# QUIET PLACES

## Hosah Prairie, Zion, IL

When a natural area lacks sex appeal, the public ignores it, which can be a very good thing. Such is the case with Hosah Prairie, a pristine 22.5-acre duneland that's located next to Lake Michigan between the south and north units of Illinois Beach State Park (IBSP). Rectangular-shaped, Hosah has one-quarter mile of beach running north to south, but the sand is so rock-filled that swimmers and sunbathers go elsewhere.



Hosah Prairie: Plain but Rich

From east to west, Hosah measures roughly one-quarter mile, but most of it is monotonous with no striking natural features. Bicyclists, joggers, and dog owners use the pedestrian boardwalk, but few others visit. In fact, the most exciting things that ever happened at Hosah were long-ago full-immersion baptisms.

One of the last undisturbed sites along the Lake Michigan shoreline, Hosah is a very diverse site with sand dunes, wetlands, wet and dry prairies, and oak savannas. Dune and swale formations that once went all the way to Waukegan can be seen from an observation tower on the boardwalk. The area has been designated a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.

### Botanists Love the Place

Botanists just love Hosah Prairie and they have surveyed it in one way or another since the days of eco-pioneer Henry Chandler Cowles early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. H.S. Pepon included the area in his **Annotated Flora of the Chicago Area** (1927) as did Swink and Wilhelm in **Plants of the Chicago Region** (1994). The Zion Park District compiled a species list in 1989. IBSP surveyed the area in 2012 and Plants of Concern has monitored there for years.

Botanists have documented almost 200 species at Hosah. Of these, 169 are natives and thirteen are endangered or threatened. Among the more common are blazing star (*Liatris spp.*), showy goldenrod (*Solidago speciosa*), flowering spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*), and big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*). Nobody volunteers information about the location of the most endangered plants.

In 2013, the INPS's indefatigable Linda Curtis surveyed Hosah Park's *Carex*, discovering ten species that she included with the inventory of 53 species growing in the Zion beach-ridge plain that comprises IBSP, Spring Bluff, Chiwaukee Prairie, and Waukegan Harbor.

As Curtis tells it in **Carex of Hosah Park** ([www.curtistothethird.com](http://www.curtistothethird.com)), the sand savannas at Hosah have "upland *Carex* species, *C. pensylvanica*, *C. muhlenbergii*, and *C. siccata* [growing] in the semi-shade of the savanna trees." The Hosah wetlands "have masses of southern cattail with red dogwood shrubs and willows along the edges" where *C. pellita* and *C. stricta* grow.

In the wet prairie between the road and the foredune, Curtis found *C. crawei*, *C. tetanica*, and *C. buxbaumii*. She also noted *C. bebbii* and *C. muhlenbergii* in road crevices and along roadsides and *C. brevior* and *C. muhlenbergii* by the railroad right-of-way that runs along the site's western edge.

### Enter Kathleen Garness

It's a humbling experience to read Kathleen Garness's seven-page resume on LinkedIn. She is probably best known for her botanical watercolors which she has exhibited throughout the Chicago area, in several U.S. cities, and at London's Kew Gardens. She has a passion for native orchids and is currently working on an orchid flora of Illinois. Her orchid illustrations are featured in the Field Museum's new online Keys to Nature-Orchids website. She has also illustrated the Field's online guide to the plant families of the Chicago region.

That's not all. Garness is an early childhood specialist of fifteen years experience, who has presented at early childhood and faith formation conferences focusing on children's emotional well-being and the impact of technology on our culture. She served as co-chair of the Chicago Wilderness Youth Outreach Task Force, developing program materials to encourage young people to develop an ethic of earth stewardship.

Garness practices what she preaches. She has been a Plants of Concern volunteer since 2001 and steward of the Grainger Woods Conservation Preserve in Lake County since 2003. Plants of Concern and the Chicago Audubon Society have given her awards for her work. In addition to Grainger, she has volunteered at IBSP for a decade—and thereby hangs a tale.

One day in 2015, Garness was visiting the Hosah area with Ken Klick, a restoration ecologist with the Lake County Forest Preserve District, and they noticed "sprinkles of buckthorn" growing on the site. She asked Klick if anyone was managing the site and he said "no" so she took matters into her own hands and approached the Zion Park District which gave her permission to manage invasive species as a volunteer.

In October of 2015, she began to strip and destroy buckthorn berries. According to her estimate, there are 40,000 seeds in a three-gallon bucket of berries. She also cut down some very healthy buckthorn shrubs with the help of a friend who has a chain saw.

"The whole site is so sensitive that you really must be careful what you do," she says. "Also, there are woody species here—viburnum (*Adoxaceae spp.*) and bog birch (*Betula pumila*)—that can be mistaken for buckthorn in the winter. So we double check before we cut."

The "we" is really Garness who is working alone right now with occasional support from friends. "We don't encourage the public to visit," she says, "because the site is such high quality. But volunteers can come out and be part of the solution."

To volunteer, e-mail [kmgfinearts@comcast.net](mailto:kmgfinearts@comcast.net).

## NEWS

### **Heavenly Bamboo, a Familiar Landscaping Plant, is Toxic to Birds**

According to the National Gardening Association, heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*), is a semi-evergreen shrub that's grown for its attractive foliage, fruit, and flowers. Sold widely at garden centers, the "Firepower" variety has lime-green leaves in the spring that slowly darken to red over the summer. By fall, the color is bright fire-engine red. The plant also bears attractive clusters of red fruit that robins, cedar waxwings, northern mockingbirds, and other birds eat, especially in winter.

In April of 2009, dozens of cedar waxwings were found dead in a yard in Georgia. Five were taken to a veterinary lab and examined. Investigators concluded that the birds had eaten *Nandina* berries, which lodged in their crops and caused hemorrhaging of several internal organs. The berries contain cyanide and other alkaloids that produce poisonous hydrogen cyanide, which can kill a bird in less than an hour. Cats and grazing animals have also died.

*Nandina* has escaped from gardens and is now growing wild in Missouri. It's rated for zones 6-9, which includes the Lake Michigan near shore area, and seems capable of spreading throughout Illinois. Thanks to Floyd and Janine Catchpole for bringing this to HARBINGER's attention!

### **Illinois Exotic Weed Act**

The Illinois Exotic Weed Act now lists 26 plants that are illegal to buy, sell, distribute, or plant in Illinois.

**Invasive Plant Species Regulated by the Illinois Exotic Weed Act** by Christopher W. Evans, Extension Forestry and Research Specialist for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences lists all 26 species. It also provides descriptions, identifying characteristics, photos, and the current Illinois range of each plant. For a copy, visit <http://ill-inps.org/images/ExoticWeedAct>.

### **Seedling ID Guide for Native Prairie Plants**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued a 92-page "Central Region Seedling ID Guide for Native Prairie Plants." Color photos illustrate seed, seedling, juvenile, and flowering stages. The text identifies a distinguishing characteristic for each plant and provides additional ID help. See [1.usa.gov/1LxDv5](http://1.usa.gov/1LxDv5).

## COMING EVENTS

**April 1-3 2016 Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium** ("Native Landscaping: Landscaping With Natives") Logan Center for Business and Industry, Carterville, IL. **April 2** Native Plant Sale in conjunction with the Indigenous Plants Symposium). See [www.ill-inps.org/index.php/events/2016-illinois-indigenous-plants-symposium](http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/events/2016-illinois-indigenous-plants-symposium).

**April 1-3** Eighth Annual Chapter Meeting of the Midwest-Great Lakes Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration, Bloomington, IN. This year's theme is Overcoming Challenges to Ecological Restoration. See <http://chapter.ser.org/midwestgreatlakes/current-meeting>.

**April 19** "Troubling Panic Grasses (*Dichanthelium spp.*)" "Rising Invader: Japanese Chaff Flower" (Presentations by Dr. Kurt Neubig, students and Travis Neal) Carbondale Township Hall, Carbondale, IL. See [www.ill-inps.org/index.php/southern-chapter](http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/southern-chapter).

**April 30** Annual INPS Central Chapter Native Plant Sale (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.) Illinois State Fairgrounds Commodities Pavilion, Springfield, IL. See [www.ill-inps.org/index.php/central-plant-sale](http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/central-plant-sale).

**May 28** Kankakee Torrent Native Plant Sale, Camp Shaw-waw-nah-see, Manteno, IL. See [www.ill-inps.org/index.php/kankakee-torrent-chapter](http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/kankakee-torrent-chapter).

**June 3-5 INPS Annual Gathering, Touch of Nature, Carbondale, IL.** INPS members will receive a packet with details when it is ready.

**July 17-20 24<sup>th</sup> North American Prairie Conference** "From Cemetery Prairies to National Tallgrass Prairies" Illinois State University, Normal, IL. See [www.nap2016.illinoisstate.edu](http://www.nap2016.illinoisstate.edu).

# WELCOME NEW INPS MEMBERS!

Bill	Henehan	At Large
Gretchen	Wade	At Large
Brian Ross	Beckerman	Central
Tim and Lisa	Guinan	Central
Marie	Havens	Central
Jonna	Krueger	Central
Vincent	Long	Central
Naomi (MONA)	Maas	Central
Jim and Christy	Mosley	Central
Geri	Niemann	Central
Letoy	Smith	Central
Kathy	Spath	Central
Zach	Salus	Forest Glen
Tom and Sue	Smith	Forest Glen
Joseph	Armstrong	Grand Prairie
John	Blank	Grand Prairie
Becky	Cobb	Grand Prairie
Derek	Liebert	Grand Prairie
Sara	Barnas	Northeast
Margaret	Bassett	Northeast
Steve	Bittner	Northeast
Natalie	Clark	Northeast
Emily	Dangremond	Northeast
Joseph	Krischon	Northeast

Sheryl	McAlearney	Northeast
Jason	Miller	Northeast
Mary Beth	Nawor	Northeast
Jenna	Whalen	Northeast
Calvin	Beckmann	Southern
Sue	Buescher	Southern
Vickie and Will	Devenport	Southern
Terry	Foster	Southern
Karen	Glynn	Southern
Caleb	Grantham	Southern
Kathy	Harasimowicz	Southern
Susan	Logue	Southern
Lynn and Mike	McMahan	Southern
Stephen	Modert	Southern
JoAnn	Nelson	Southern
Leonard	Pitcher	Southern
Benieta	Powell	Southern
Susan	Rick	Southern
Chris	Sedivy	Southern
Keri	Shimp	Southern
Joan	Steele and Scott Rogers	Southern
Robert	Steinman	Southern
Les	Vaughn	Southern
Julie	Wittenborn-Sikorski	Southern



Find the most plant species in Illinois in 2016 and rejoice in your victory! More information on our website at <http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/events/illinois-botanists-big-year-2016>

## Native Plant Sales in Illinois and Beyond

We have compiled a list of native plant sales in Illinois (and adjacent states) this year and they can be seen on our website at <http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/plant-resources/native-plant-sales>



# ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

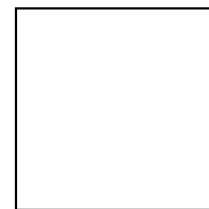
Forest Glen Preserve

20301 E. 900 North Road

Westville, IL 61883

[illinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:illinoisplants@gmail.com)

[www.ill-inps.org](http://www.ill-inps.org)



*Dodecatheon frenchii* –  
French's Shooting Star

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## 2016 Spring Harbinger – April 2016

You can renew/join by filling out the form below or online at our website,  
[www.ill-inps.org/member](http://www.ill-inps.org/member)



**Join us!**

- ☐ New Member      ☐ Address Change only  
☐ Renewal      ☐ Additional Donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Categories

- ☐ Student.....\$15.00  
☐ Individual.....\$25.00  
☐ Family.....\$35.00  
☐ Institutional (nonvoting)..\$20.00  
☐ Supporting.....\$50.00  
☐ Patron.....\$100.00  
☐ Business.....\$125.00  
☐ Life.....\$500.00  
☐ Iliamna (life).....\$1,000.00  
☐ Dodecatheon (life).....\$2,000.00  
☐ Erigenia (life).....\$3,000.00

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Illinois Native Plant Society  
INPS, Membership, P.O. Box 271, Carbondale, IL 62903-0271

The Harbinger Newsletter is sent electronically by email.

☐ Check here to receive the newsletter BY MAIL

**Erigenia**, our scientific journal, is now available  
digitally as well as in print.  
Please indicate your preference for receiving the journal.

☐ Email only    ☐ Postal Mail only    ☐ Both

### Chapter Affiliation

- ☐ Central (Springfield)      ☐ Northeast (Chicago)  
☐ Forest Glen (Westville)      ☐ Quad Cities (Rock Island)  
☐ Grand Prairie (Bloomington)      ☐ Southern (Carbondale)  
☐ Kankakee Torrent      ☐ Other/Uncertain \_\_\_\_\_

### I would like to help with:

- ☐ Leadership & Organization (serving on  
board at State or Chapter level)  
☐ Leading Field Trips & Tours  
☐ Organizing Workshops &/or Seminars

- ☐ Giving Workshops &/or Seminars  
☐ Public Speaking  
☐ Fund Raising  
☐ Website Assistance/Management

- ☐ Public Media/Communications  
☐ Writing/Submitting articles  
☐ Photography  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**My area of expertise:** \_\_\_\_\_